



Annual Review 2018

INTRODUCTION

from Chris Atkin



2018, the first year of our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, has been another year of consistent delivery for the Engineering Council. We have successfully hosted the prestigious International Engineering Alliance (IEA) meeting in June, enhanced our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) monitoring regime, moved forward with our risk-based approach to Licensing and analysed responses to the public consultation on all aspects of our Standards.

Alongside our Strategic Objectives, the Engineering Council has over the course of 2018 taken on work in a number of key areas in response to the needs of society and the engineering profession. Following

the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Engineering Council has been leading one of the Competence for Building a Safer Future working groups (part of the industry response to Dame Judith Hackitt's independent review of building regulations and fire safety), considering the competence requirements for engineering professionals working on higher risk residential buildings.

To facilitate international mobility for engineers, the Engineering Council is a signatory to international engineering education agreements including the Washington Accord and we are participating in the ongoing debate around international recognition of degrees. We have also set up a working group to review the consistency of our accreditation process for engineering degree programmes and ensure it continues to be fit for purpose.

The need for a strong focus on ethics for engineering professionals has been highlighted this year, including in responses to our Standards Review consultation. The Engineering Council has explored this through Board-level

discussions as well as being part of the Steering Group for the Engineering Ethics Conference held in September 2018, at which trustee Professor Kevin Jones CEng FIMarEST and I both spoke.

We were pleased to support the government's Year of Engineering and the Royal Academy of Engineering's This is Engineering campaigns, which work to change perceptions of engineering as a career and inspire the next generation.

In 2019, the Engineering Council will continue to deliver the objectives of our Strategic Plan, championing standards in the engineering profession and facilitating international mobility, while carrying out our key regulatory functions in a way that meets stakeholders' needs.

Professor Chris Atkin FEng CEng FRAeS
Chairman

VISION AND MISSION

What we do, why and how we do it

VISION:

That society continues to have confidence and trust in the engineering profession.

MISSION:

To maintain internationally recognised standards of competence and commitment for the engineering profession, and to license competent institutions to champion the standards for the deliverance of public benefit.



What we do

- Develop and maintain common professional standards for engineering competence and commitment
- License professional engineering institutions to professionally develop and assess engineers and technicians against the common standards
- Maintain the national Register of professionally registered engineers and technicians

Why we do it

- To safeguard the public

How we do it

- Self-regulation by peer review



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES of the Engineering Council



Our aim to provide public benefit will be delivered through three objectives:



Our aim to maintain a globally recognised Standard will be delivered through three objectives:



Our aim to meet future needs will be delivered through three objectives:



OBJECTIVE 1

Maintain the Engineering Council's position as an effective and well-respected regulator of the profession



OBJECTIVE 2

Ensure that no barriers exist for anyone appropriately qualified to become professionally registered



OBJECTIVE 3

Ensure that the Engineering Council is operationally sound and is recognised by stakeholders as delivering value for money



OBJECTIVE 4

Widen engagement with key stakeholders on the promotion of the Register and the Standard



OBJECTIVE 5

Safeguard and promote UK registration standards internationally



OBJECTIVE 6

Ensure that the needs and expectations of stakeholders are being met



OBJECTIVE 7

Ensure that the regulatory needs of the profession are being met



OBJECTIVE 8

Ensure that all regulatory functions remain fit for purpose and support the Standard



OBJECTIVE 9

Ensure that the engineering profession's pathways to registration remain appropriate for the needs of future stakeholders

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Provide public benefit



1. Maintain the Engineering Council's position as an effective and well-respected regulator of the profession

A review of the Engineering Council's Charter and Byelaws has been carried out and the revised version was submitted to the Board for approval.

In our capacity as a competent authority in respect of the EU directive on Recognition of Prof Qualifications we engaged with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Department for International Trade (DIT) and the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU). We also engaged with a range of other government departments and responded to government consultations on a variety of engineering-related issues, including the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework.

We developed a Volunteer Support and Management Strategy, based on research and input from a number of our volunteers, which will be implemented over the coming year.





2. Ensure that no barriers exist for anyone appropriately qualified to become professionally registered

Our five-yearly Standards Review is underway and will ensure that the Standard continues to be relevant, flexible and future-ready for the benefit of all stakeholders. The review is considering potential barriers to professional registration and our public consultation asked respondents to comment on any they consider to exist.

We are supporting key stakeholders in integrating diversity and inclusion across the profession, through continuing involvement in initiatives including the Royal Academy of Engineering's Graduate Employer Engagement Programme and encouraging the adoption of the Diversity & Inclusion Progression Framework.





3. Ensure that the Engineering Council is operationally sound and is recognised by stakeholders as delivering value for money

An ICT Strategy has been developed, covering security, data and operations, which will enhance and optimise the IT efficiency of the organisation.

The organisation continues to be certified to the quality management standard ISO9001 and successfully transitioned to the most recent version ISO9001:2015 during 2018.

The organisation reviewed many of its policies and procedures during the year, particularly those involving personal data, to ensure they were compliant with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) introduced in May 2018. All staff, the Trustee Board and many of our volunteers underwent GDPR related training during the year and we held a seminar for PEI staff on the subject.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Maintain a globally recognised standard



4. Widen engagement with key stakeholders on the promotion of the Register and the Standard

The Engineering Council's marketing collateral has been reviewed and updated, and we continue to engage with the PEIs and other stakeholders to promote the value of the Register and professional registration.

Having audited our existing branding and defined our key audiences, we are now preparing to research audiences' perceptions of our brand and how it compares to others in our sector.

We have played an integral role in responding to Dame Judith Hackitt's Review of Building Regulations following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, developing specific competence requirements for engineers working on high-rise, complex buildings. We have also throughout 2018 provided advice and support to those organisations looking to constitute a Cyber Security Alliance, which aims to bring together a number of established bodies to facilitate the professionalisation of those individuals working in the cyber security profession.



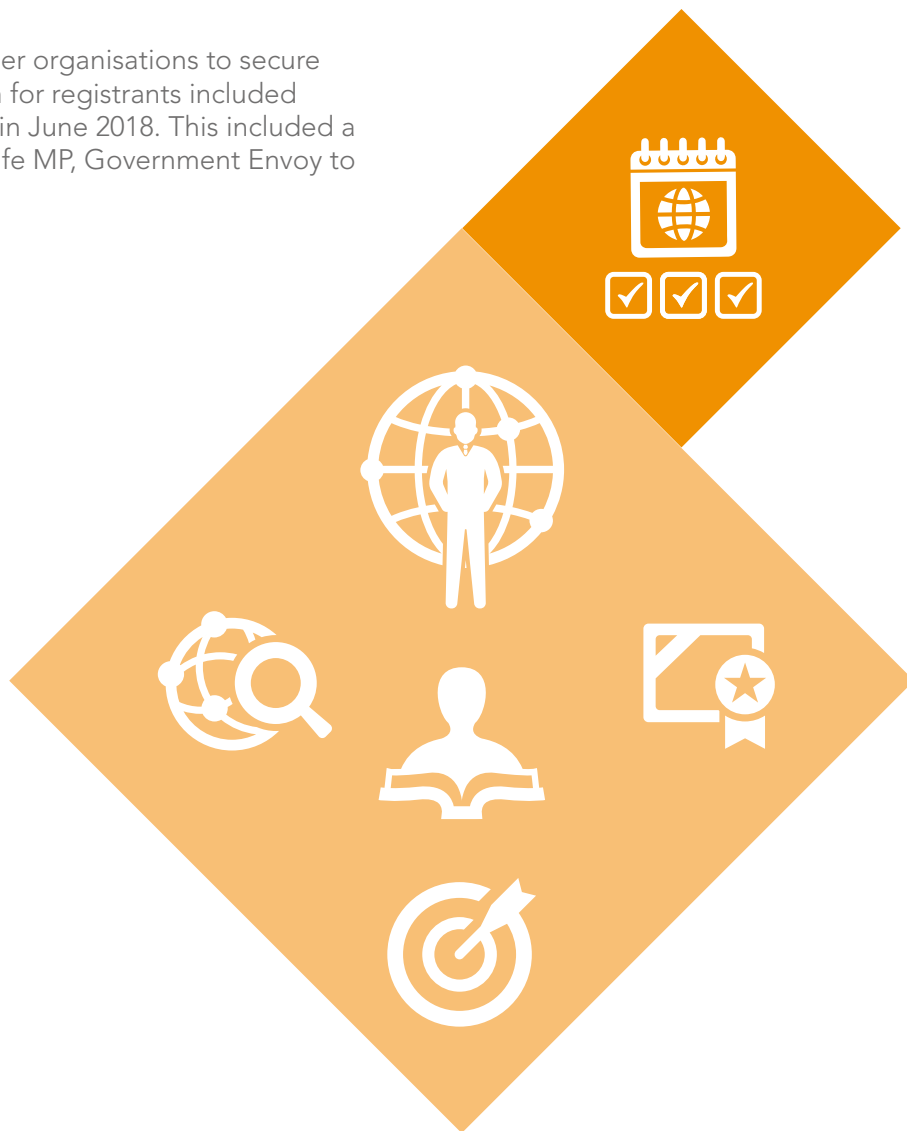


5. Safeguard and promote UK registration standards internationally

Our engagement with overseas partner organisations to secure and maintain appropriate recognition for registrants included successfully hosting the IEA meeting in June 2018. This included a keynote speech from Stephen Metcalfe MP, Government Envoy to the Year of Engineering.

To facilitate mobility, we have entered into a series of international agreements that ensure professional recognition, most recently with Engineers Ireland, Ordem Dos Engenheiros (Portugal) and Engineers New Zealand.

Working with BSI, we have created a Publicly Available Specification (PAS) to facilitate overseas partners developing and operating competence-based registration systems aligned to UK-SPEC, rather than qualification-based systems.





6. Ensure that the needs and expectations of stakeholders are being met

Responding to changes in the routes available into engineering, we have engaged with the development of 'T-Levels' in Construction, Digital and Engineering & Manufacturing routes. We also continued to monitor and engage with developments in Trailblazer Apprenticeships, promoting the approval of technician qualifications and apprenticeships as pathways to professional registration. We published a policy statement on Higher Apprenticeships and have developed a model for recognition of these.

Enhancing our CPD monitoring regime, we have established a Professional Development Forum to share practice, tools and processes, and produced a CPD video. We drafted and consulted on an Initial Professional Development (IPD) Policy Statement and we continued to maintain and enhance our online CPD system mycareerpath® to meet user needs.

We have delivered a well-received series of workshops, with topics based on consultation with stakeholders, including "Promoting professional registration" and "Recruiting and engaging with students".



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Meet future needs



7. Ensure that the regulatory needs of the profession are being met

Our five-yearly Standards Review, including the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC) and associated documents, is in progress; we ran a public consultation on all aspects of our Standards, analysed the responses and identified key areas for attention. By year-end we were ready to begin the drafting phase.

Our engagement with employers included meeting with Thames Water, presenting to Network Rail staff on the value of professional registrations and attending BAE Systems' Professional Registration Steering Group. Employers were also encouraged to respond to the Standards Review consultation.

We are monitoring the use of Engineering Council guidance documents for engineers and technicians, logging feedback received and suggestions for enhancing these or developing new guidance.





8. Ensure that all regulatory functions remain fit for purpose and support the Standard

We are progressing a risk-based approach to Licensing, including revision of all the associated documentation, expected to be approved in January 2019.

Our current Standards Review Programme includes the Registration Code of Practice and the supporting guidance to the professional engineering institutions.

Work is underway to deliver a registrant portal, which will allow registrants access to a suite of online services, including the option to view their registration data, renew international registrations and purchase professional stamps.





9. Ensure that the engineering profession's pathways to registration remain appropriate for the needs of future stakeholders

We continue to emphasise that there are multiple pathways available to professional registration, including through our library of case studies and production of a "Benefits of professional registration" video.

Our Registration Working Group is considering how we best meet future needs, including changes in the available routes into engineering.

Building on the work already done with the Royal Academy of Engineering and EngineeringUK to develop an agreed engineering footprint, we have started to develop a report based on Office for National Statistics (ONS) data that will provide a fuller and more up-to-date picture of the UK's engineering workforce.



GOING FORWARD

We continue to work towards the priorities set out in our Strategic Plan, with the overall goal that the Engineering Council maintains its ability to meet the needs of the profession, key stakeholders and society.

Our objective is to be recognised for:

- Our effective and respected regulation of the engineering profession for public benefit
- Delivering an efficient and sustainable service to the profession
- Ensuring our regulatory model remains fit for purpose for both current and future engineers and technicians
- Our wide engagement with stakeholders, consultation and consensus building
- Guidance for professional engineers and technicians

Interested in professional registration?



Find out more:


EngTech: www.engc.org.uk/engtech


ICTTech: www.engc.org.uk/icttech

IEng: www.engc.org.uk/ieng

CEng: www.engc.org.uk/ceng

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